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(54) **VIRTUAL ON-DEMAND ELECTRONIC BOOK**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **709/214;** 709/219

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 709/206, 709/214, 217–219; 710/54; 705/26
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An electronic book selection and delivery system distributes text to subscribers. The system provides for on-demand and virtual on-demand delivery of electronic books. Specified electronic books may be broadcast to a set of subscribers. Alternatively, a first section of the specified electronic books may be broadcast. A second section of each of the electronic books is then available for later delivery, upon order by a subscriber. The second sections, as well as first sections, and true on-demand electronic books may be loaded into one or more queues. The queues may then be emptied based on a priority model. Electronic books in an on-demand queue may be given priority for delivery over electronic books in other queues.

15 Claims, 53 Drawing Sheets